



September 17, 1990

Fran C. Wheeler, Ph.D.  
Director  
Center for Health Promotion  
South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Fran:

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Board fully supports and endorses the proposal for Project ASSIST. Given our agency's mission to protect and promote the public's health, it is our responsibility to take meaningful action to combat smoking and tobacco use in South Carolina.

Smoking is the single most important preventable cause of death in our society today and is a significant contributor to morbidity and mortality in South Carolina. In this state alone in 1985, the costs attributable to adult smoking totaled \$228 million for direct care, \$282 million for indirect mortality costs, and \$124 million for indirect morbidity costs.

The Tobacco Free South Carolina Coalition is an exciting new addition to our smoking prevention and control efforts. Its broad-based membership sends a clear message that there is widespread readiness for more to be done in this area. Working in concert with the American Cancer Society, Project ASSIST offers DHEC an opportunity to exercise its leadership role in smoking prevention and control in South Carolina.

The DHEC Board and I, too, pledge support and fully endorse your proposal for Project ASSIST in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Jarrett  
Commissioner

BN/lwb

Commissioner: Michael D. Jarrett Board: Henry S. Jordan MD, Chairman John B. Pate, MD, Vice Chairman William E. Applegate, III, Secretary  
Toney Graham, Jr., MD John H. Burriss Richard E. Jabbour, DOS Currie B. Spivey, Jr.  
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